



SCREEN AWARDS 2026

SUNSHINE COAST SCREEN AWARDS 2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The rules for nominating, judging and celebrating the 2026 Sunshine Coast Screen Awards, run by the Sunshine Coast Screen Collective Inc.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Sunday 11 October 2026
11:59 pm AEST

AWARDS DINNER

Saturday 24 October 2026
The Wharf Mooloolaba

ENQUIRIES

info@screencollective.au

BIG IDEAS. SMALL CREWS. WORK THAT MATTERS.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

CLAUSES 1-3

01

ORGANISER AND ELIGIBILITY

The Sunshine Coast Screen Awards 2026 are organised by the Sunshine Coast Screen Collective Inc. (SCSC). The awards recognise achievements in film, television and digital games.

Individuals must ordinarily reside in the Sunshine Coast Council or Noosa Shire Council local government area when nominations close. Temporary work travel does not change a person's usual residence. Membership of SCSC is not required, and eligible work may take place locally, nationally or internationally.

Teams and businesses must have their principal operating base in either local government area. A lead person must be named as the nominee and contact, meet the individual residency requirement, and be authorised to represent the team or business when accepting the nomination. The award recognises the named team or business. Other team members may be based elsewhere. SCSC may request reasonable evidence of eligibility.

02

ACHIEVEMENT PERIOD

Nominations must demonstrate achievements realised from 1 November 2025 to 11 October 2026 inclusive, by 11:59 pm AEST on 11 October. You may mention a release or event scheduled after this cutoff as context, but you cannot assess an anticipated outcome as an achievement. Work already completed on an unreleased production may be considered where relevant to the category and supported by material the nominator is entitled to provide. For the Game Release Achievement Award, the game must have been publicly released during this period, including in early access.

The Industry Excellence and Commitment Award is exempt from this period. Nominees must have at least 10 years of professional screen industry experience at the close of nominations and are assessed on sustained contribution across their career. Residency and other eligibility requirements still apply.

03

SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be received through the official nomination form by Sunday 11 October 2026 at 11:59 pm AEST (Queensland time). There is no nomination fee. Nominators may nominate themselves and as many other individuals, teams or businesses as they wish. Submit a separate form for each nominee. Entries across multiple categories are permitted. People's Choice nominations are made through the separate People's Choice form, not the main nomination form.

Nominations must address the published category criteria, describe the nominee's contribution and provide accurate contact details. Information must be accurate to the best of the nominator's knowledge. Supporting links must be accessible to authorised assessors. Do not submit confidential production material, private personal information or third-party content without the necessary authority.

Industry Excellence nominations must include evidence of at least 10 years of professional screen industry experience, such as a CV or credits list with roles and dates, verifiable credit listings, employer confirmation or professional references. The years need not be consecutive or local. SCSC may request further evidence; unverifiable nominations will not proceed.

SCSC may seek clarification or verification and set a reasonable response deadline. This does not allow adding a new achievement after the nomination deadline. SCSC may combine duplicate nominations, and they do not increase a nominee's chance of winning, except for the People's Choice awards. Late, materially incomplete or ineligible nominations will not proceed, and SCSC will notify the nominator where contact details are available.

NOMINEE ACCEPTANCE AND ASSESSMENT

CLAUSES 4-5

04

NOMINEE ACCEPTANCE

Nominators are encouraged, but not required, to speak with nominees before submitting. SCSC will email the nominee or nominated lead to explain the nomination, share these terms and seek confirmation that they wish to be considered. A nomination is provisional until accepted. Nominees may decline without giving a reason.

SCSC must receive acceptance by Thursday 15 October 2026 at 5 pm AEST. Unconfirmed nominations will not proceed to final selection. For nominees under 18, SCSC will also seek parent or guardian consent before assessment and publicity. Nominees may withdraw before SCSC announces winners by contacting SCSC.

05

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Screen Collective Executive Committee selects finalists and winners, subject to the conflict arrangements in clause 6. For the Game Release Achievement, Games Collaboration and Emerging Developer of the Year awards, the Games Sunshine Coast team selects finalists and winners using the same criteria, scoring and conflict arrangements. SCSC will first check eligibility and nominee acceptance. SCSC will assess eligible nominations against the published criteria for the relevant category.

Unless a category publishes different criteria before nominations open, the criteria are:

- ◆ Quality and significance of the achievement in its screen discipline.
- ◆ The nominee's demonstrated contribution to the achievement.
- ◆ Impact on the nominee's professional practice, the screen industry or the community. Impact may occur anywhere and need not be local.

For the Industry Excellence and Commitment Award, the criteria are:

- ◆ Sustained commitment to the screen industry across a professional career of 10 or more years.
- ◆ Depth of expertise and quality of work across that career.

- Contribution to strengthening the sector through leadership, collaboration, mentoring or advocacy.

For the Crew Standout Award, assessment focuses on the nominee's contribution to a specific production or team during the achievement period. Career length is relevant context but is not assessed in that category.

Emerging Developer of the Year is open to games developers of any age within their first five years of professional games work at the close of nominations.

The Emerging Junior Award is open to practitioners under 21 at the close of nominations. Students aged 18 or over may enter either Junior Crew Standout or Crew Standout.

The People's Choice Screen Award and People's Choice Game Award go to the eligible title that receives the most valid nominations through the separate People's Choice form by Sunday 11 October 2026 at 11:59 pm AEST. Each person may nominate once for each award. Titles must meet the eligibility requirements in clause 1 and have been released or screened between 1 November 2025 and 11 October 2026. If titles are tied, the title that reached that number of valid nominations first wins. SCSC may disregard nominations or disqualify an entry where it reasonably suspects manipulation, including automated, duplicate or purchased nominations. Nomination counts will not be published.

Each criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 with equal weighting. At least three unconflicted assessors will independently score each entry. Scores will be averaged, with consistent scoring guidance used for all entries in a category. The highest average score will determine the winner, subject to eligibility and evidence checks. Unconflicted assessors will review ties against the same criteria; joint winners may be selected if the tie remains.

The Committee will determine finalists from the assessment results. SCSC may seek specialist advice where relevant. Any adviser must follow the same confidentiality and conflict requirements. Awards are assessed on merit. Apart from nomination numbers for the People's Choice awards, nomination volume, social media engagement, membership, sponsorship and ticket purchases do not influence selection.

SCSC may suggest a more suitable category and will obtain the nominee's agreement before transferring the entry. For example, a Crew Standout nomination that mainly describes a long career may be better suited to Industry Excellence, subject to its evidence requirement. An award may be withheld where no eligible entry meets the published criteria. SCSC will not create undisclosed assessment criteria after receiving entries.

CONFLICTS, DECISIONS AND PUBLICITY

CLAUSES 6-9

06

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Current members of the Screen Collective Executive Committee are not eligible to be nominated for an award, including as the lead nominee for a team or business. Games Sunshine Coast team members may be nominated for games awards, but must not assess any category in which they, their team or their studio is entered.

All assessors must declare actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflicts, including family, financial, employment or close working relationships. Unconflicted decision makers will determine the appropriate response and record it. A conflicted assessor must not score, discuss or vote on the affected category or attempt to influence its outcome.

If fewer than three unconflicted Committee or Games Sunshine Coast assessors are available for a category, SCSC will appoint independent assessors to ensure at least three unconflicted assessors decide the affected category. Conflicted assessors will not approve or overturn their decision. SCSC must implement these arrangements consistently with its governing rules.

07 DECISIONS AND CONCERNS

Assessment scores and deliberations are confidential. Award decisions are final on matters of comparative merit. Nominators and nominees may raise a factual eligibility error or a concern about the assessment process with info@screencollective.au. SCSC will arrange review by an unconflicted person. This does not create a right to a new assessment merely because a person disagrees with the result.

08 AWARDS NIGHT

Winners will be announced at the Sunshine Coast Screen Awards Dinner on Saturday 24 October 2026, from 6 pm to 10 pm at The Wharf Mooloolaba. Nominations are free. Attendance and ticket purchase are not conditions of winning. Nomination does not include a dinner ticket. Each winning team or business receives one award.

09 PUBLICITY AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL

SCSC will seek separate permission before publicly sharing a nominee's name, image, team or business details, or achievement summary, including on social media. Declining optional nominee publicity will not affect assessment. SCSC will separately agree how a finalist or winner may be identified in the awards announcement.

Copyright in submitted material remains with its owner. Submission permits SCSC and its authorised assessors to use the material to administer and assess the nomination. Publicity use requires separate permission from the relevant rights holder. Nominators must not imply they own footage, images or other material belonging to a production or client.

PRIVACY AND ADMINISTRATION

CLAUSES 10–11

10 PERSONAL INFORMATION

SCSC will use nomination information to administer the awards, verify eligibility, contact nominees, assess entries and arrange approved announcements. Access will be limited to people and service providers who need it for these purposes, subject to appropriate confidentiality arrangements. SCSC will not publish or supply contact details to sponsors for marketing without separate consent.

SCSC will collect only information reasonably needed for the awards. Individuals may contact info@screencollective.au about access, corrections, privacy complaints or withdrawal of consent for future publicity. Published material may already have been shared by others. The nomination form and first nominee email must link to the approved Sunshine Coast Screen Awards Privacy Notice

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ACCURACY AND ADMINISTRATION

SCSC may decline a nomination, or withdraw an award, where material information is false, or the nominee does not meet the published eligibility requirements. Before doing so, SCSC will explain the concern and provide a reasonable opportunity to respond. Unconflicted decision makers will make decisions.

If circumstances prevent the awards from proceeding as planned, SCSC may reasonably change the event arrangements or dates and will notify affected nominees. SCSC will promptly publish material changes to nomination rules and will not use them to unfairly disadvantage entries already submitted. Nothing in these terms excludes rights that cannot lawfully be excluded.

Submitting a nomination confirms the nominator's agreement to the provisions relevant to submission. Accepting a nomination confirms the nominee's agreement to these terms. Optional publicity permission is requested separately.

AWARD CATEGORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS

17 CATEGORIES

The 2026 award categories are listed below. Individual awards are On-Screen Performance, Emerging Developer of the Year, Volunteer Standout, Emerging Junior, Crew Standout, Junior Crew Standout, and Industry Excellence and Commitment. Other categories may recognise an individual, team or business.

SCREEN

ACHIEVEMENT IN NARRATIVE

Recognises outstanding work in scripted feature films, television or online series, celebrating the creative, technical or production contribution behind compelling screen storytelling.

ACHIEVEMENT IN SHORT FILM

Recognises outstanding achievement in short filmmaking, including the creative, technical or production work that brings a short film to life.

ACHIEVEMENT IN UNSCRIPTED

Recognises outstanding work in unscripted screen content, including reality, factual entertainment, lifestyle and entertainment programs.

ACHIEVEMENT IN DOCUMENTARY

Recognises outstanding achievement in documentary storytelling, bringing real people, events and issues to the screen with insight, care and craft.

ACHIEVEMENT IN POST-PRODUCTION

Recognises outstanding post-production work, including editing, visual effects, colour grading, sound design and mixing, music or animation, that elevates the storytelling and finish of a screen production.

ON-SCREEN PERFORMANCE AWARD

Recognises an outstanding on-screen performance by an actor in a feature film, series, short film or other screen production, celebrating the craft, presence and truth they bring to the story.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE SCREEN AWARD

Celebrates the film, series or screen production our community loves most. The eligible title with the most nominations wins.

GAMES

GAME RELEASE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognises a digital game released during the eligibility period that stands out for its creativity, quality, technical achievement, or audience and critical response.

GAMES COLLABORATION AWARD

Recognises an outstanding collaboration in digital games, within a studio or across teams, studios, disciplines or partners, where working together produced an exceptional result.

EMERGING DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognises an early-career games developer whose skill, initiative and achievements show exceptional promise, in any discipline including programming, design, art, animation, audio or production.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE GAME AWARD

Celebrates the game our community loves most. The eligible game with the most nominations wins.

COMMUNITY AND CAREERS

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Recognises screen-related work or initiatives that create meaningful community benefit, including greater access, inclusion, connection or opportunities to participate.

VOLUNTEER STANDOUT AWARD

Recognises an individual whose voluntary contribution has made a significant difference to screen projects, events, organisations or the wider screen community.

EMERGING JUNIOR AWARD

Recognises an emerging practitioner under 21 showing exceptional promise, initiative and achievement in screen storytelling or digital games.

CREW STANDOUT AWARD

Recognises an experienced crew member whose expertise, leadership, collaboration and professional contribution made a significant difference to a production or team during the eligibility period.

JUNIOR CREW STANDOUT AWARD

Recognises a crew member who is under 18 or a current student, including university and TAFE students, whose skill, initiative, reliability and teamwork have made an outstanding contribution to a production.

INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT AWARD

Recognises an established screen industry practitioner with 10 or more years of professional experience, celebrating their sustained commitment, expertise and contribution to the industry. This award honours those whose work, leadership, collaboration or mentoring have helped strengthen the screen sector over time. Requires evidence of 10 or more years' experience; not limited to the eligibility period.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AWARDS?

Email info@screencollective.au or visit screencollective.au
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